

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

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S E C R E T NICOSIA 1723

E X D I S

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS

FOREIGN MINISTER DIMITRIOU TELEPHONED EMBOFF AND ASKED
FOLLOWING BE PASSED:

1. MAKARIOS' STATEMENT THAT HE HOPES RETURN TO CYPRUS
IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS HAS HAD AN IMMEDIATE AND INCREASINGLY
ADVERSE REACTION WITH GREEK CYPRIOTS. GREEK CYPRIOTS
OF ALL STRIPES (STRONG ENOSISTS, EOKA-B, THE INDIFFERENT,
ETC.) OTHER THAN AKEL AND LYSSARIDES FOLLOWERS ARE ALREADY
SAYING THAT IF MAKARIOS COMES BACK BLOOD WILL FLOW AGAIN
AND THERE WILL BE CIVIL STRIFE ON ISLAND, GREEK WILL BE
FIGHTING GREEK AGAIN.

2. PRESENT GOVT, INCLUDING CLERIDES, ARE CONVINCED MAKARIOS'
RETURN, IF IT IS SOON, WOULD BE A DISASTER HERE. THE
ISLAND NEEDS TIME NOW FOR EMOTIONS TO SETTLE AND FOR A
RETURN TO SOME KIND OF STABILITY AND SANITY. GREEKS ARE
PULLING TOGETHER, AND HOPEFULLY UNDER CLERIDES LEADERSHIP
THEY CAN BE KEPT TOGETHER--UNITED AND READY FOR A SOLUTION TO
GREEK/TURK PROBLEM ON THE ISLAND.

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3. GOVT FEELS THAT MAKARIOS' EARLY RETURN WOULD ONLY DIS-

RUPT ORDERLY RETURN TO NORMALITY HERE. PERHAPS IF MAKARIOS INSISTS ON RETURNING, HE COULD PUT OFF HIS RETURN FOR AT LEAST THREE MONTHS. BY THAT TIME THE COURSE HERE COULD BE SET, EMOTIONS SOOTHED AND HIS RETURN WOULD NOT BE TOO DISRUPTIVE. IF, HOWEVER, HE KEEPS SAYING HE WILL RETURN IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS AND IF HE DOES COME BACK THIS SOON, THEN CIVIL STRIFE IS ALMOST A CERTAINTY.

4. CLERIDES HAS RELAYED SUBSTANCE OF THE ABOVE TO KARAMANLIS AS HAS DIMITRIOU TO GEN. BONANOS. THEY HAVE URGED THAT MAKARIOS NOT BE PERMITTED TO RETURN FOR AT LEAST THREE MONTHS. KARAMANLIS REPLIED HE WOULD THINK ABOUT IT. BONANOS AGREED THAT MAKARIOS SHOULD NOT RETURN, AT LEAST NOT FOR PRESENT.

5. CLERIDES GOVT, THROUGH DIMITRIOU, URGES U.S. TO EXERT ITS INFLUENCE, INDEED TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES, TO AVOID MAKARIOS' RETURN TO CYPRUS IN NEAR FUTURE.

6. COMMENT: CLERIDES IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THIS MORNING PUBLICLY STATED ARCHBISHOP SHOULD NOT RETURN, AND QUESTION OF HIS RETURN SHOULD BE DECIDED THROUGH ELECTIONS. AS INCIDENTAL INFORMATION, DIMITRIOU SAID COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS TOLD CLERIDES THAT HE HAS A FREE HAND TO RESHUFFLE THE CABINET AS HE WISHES.
DAVIES

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS ADDED PER S/SO, MISS ELTZ.

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NNN

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